



Docket No.: D0188.70162US01
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Gregory E. Sancoff et al.
Serial No.: 10/014,991
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For: MEDICAL SUTURE INSTRUMENT AND METHOD OF USE
Examiner: V. Q. Bui
Art Unit: 3734

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Dated: January 9, 2007

Doris A. Champagne
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Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

Please find the following remarks in response to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 9, 2006.

REMARKS

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed August 9, 2006, Applicant elects, with traverse, the claims of Group II, including claims 68-75, for further prosecution.

Applicant respectfully points out that the previously assigned Examiner's search notes dated August 2003 (courtesy copy attached) indicate that the classes and subclasses of Group I (606/148) and Group II (606/146) have, in fact, already been searched. Prosecution that followed this and subsequent searching ultimately led to a Notice of Allowance before Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application has already been fully searched by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), such that there is no search burden for the present Examiner, much less a serious burden, as is required for a valid Restriction Requirement (MPEP 803).